

COMMENT OF THE DAY

Mr Molotov's Manoeuvring

MR Molotov has promised to submit to today's meeting of the Big Four foreign ministers what he calls a "new-plan for European security." Whatever the nature of the proposal may turn out to be, its design can already be estimated: it is to achieve the abolition of the European Defence Community and simultaneously to undermine the effectiveness of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. Mr Molotov has made one thing very clear at the Berlin conference—that the elimination of American influence from Europe remains a prime subject of Russian foreign policy. On this basis, therefore, will Mr Molotov's proposals for "European security" be founded. And they will, of course, be just as unacceptable to the Western Powers as is the concept of the European Defence Community to Russia. The Soviet foreign minister has indulged in some interesting, though unprofitable manoeuvring at the Berlin talks. When Mr Eden at the outset suggested discussion of European security, especially where it affected Russia, Mr Molotov ignored the invitation, as though the matter were of no great importance. Now, after much futile debate on the unification of Germany, he introduces the subject in a manner which suggests that Russia regards it as a primary consideration. By such tactics he seeks to, and to a degree succeeds in, confusing the issues.

DISCERNIBLE also in Mr Molotov's latest move is Russia's determination to try and create the impression to the world that it is no fault of her's if the Berlin talks break down. By linking European security with the question of Germany at this stage, Mr Molotov succeeds in keeping alive discussion on the German problem, despite the fact that both sides have now said virtually all there is to say on the issue. Both sides have indulged in repetitive and unproductive arguments on German unity, and to most people it is a subject which could be easily dropped for the time being without prejudice to future discussions. Obviously, however, Mr Molotov cannot resist the opportunity for some propaganda—disgust—and that, in effect, is all that his "new proposals" for European security can amount to. The security of Europe very largely depends on the unification of Germany—a political development which can only be realised by the establishment of a freely-elected Government. That Mr Molotov refuses to concede this fundamental point is the only real stumbling block to a substantial measure of agreement on the German problem. And while he remains adamant in his objections to free elections, all his fine talk about recognising legitimate German aspirations, and his honeyed sentiments about upholding the dignity and rights of the German people, are completely meaningless.

Luang Prabang Prepares Its Defences

TRENCHES NOW BEING DUG IN THE CITY

Hanoi, Feb. 9.

Incense is burning day and night in front of the statues of Buddha in Luang Prabang, the royal capital of the kingdom of Laos, now directly threatened by Vietminh spearheads between ten and fifteen miles away from the ancient and picturesque city.

There is no panic in the capital, the capture of which will place a threat at the doors of Thailand, Burma and Malaya, and King Sisavong Vong, ailing though he is, has declared his intention to remain with his people in a last-ditch fight to save the city from the armies of General Vo Nguyen Giap, still believed to be several days away in their main strength.

Everywhere throughout the threatened capital notices are being posted to tell the population that the Franco-Laotian forces will defend Luang Prabang to the end.

Trenches are being feverishly dug in Luang Prabang and, outside the city, defence works are being erected by the defending forces with the aid of the population. The work is proceeding twenty-four hours of every day as Franco-Laotian units venture forth to gauge the nearness of the rebels to the capital.

The main body of the Vietminh army is still several days away from the capital, but the capture of Pakse, over 45 hours ago, brought rebel spearheads to a point about ten to fifteen miles away from the city itself. There they are expected to remain while the main

body advances forward along the dense mountain trails to halt before the capital for a final assault.

Vietminh pressure appeared to be increasing tonight in all sectors of the fluid Indo-China front.

Twelve Vietminh battalions were operating in the mountain plateaux of central Vietnam and the fall of Kon Tum, held by a small Franco-Laotian force, appeared to be imminent.

In the Tonkin delta area, French Union forces were still engaged in mopping up operations against the Vietminh, which had infiltrated into the delta's rich rice-growing region several days ago.

Along the coast of Annam, over 20,000 people were freed from the Vietminh by the French operation "Atlante".

As the situation in Laos deteriorated, the French Defence Minister, M. Rene Pleven, who arrived this morning, from Paris, accompanied by the French Armed Forces Chief of Staff, General Ely, went into a series of conferences in Saigon with top French military leaders.

VITAL TALKS

Attending the vital talks were leading Vietnamese leaders and American high-ranking officers, directly concerned with the Vietminh advance through Laos that would throw open the way through Thailand and Burma into Malaya.

Among the personalities conferring with M. Pleven and the French military leaders were General Sir Charles F. Loewen, British Commander-in-Chief in the Far East, who flew from Singapore, General John O'Daniel, newly appointed chief of a United States Military Mission in Indo-China, which replaces the present advisory group, and several others.

Reports that the United States would withdraw two infantry divisions from Korea for Indo-China were denied both here and in Washington.

In view of the grave danger caused by the spectacular Vietminh advance to Luang Prabang, the Defence Minister was given full powers by the spot decisions regarding the conduct of the war. He will stay two weeks in Indo-China before returning to Paris to report to the government.—France-Press.



Mr Molotov, the Soviet Foreign Minister, shows Mr Anthony Eden of Great Britain to his seat at the Conference table in the Russian Embassy, where the Four Power Talks are taking place.—London Express.

Anglo-Japanese Agreement Motion Criticises Govt

London, Feb. 8.

The Labour Opposition in Parliament tonight presented a motion criticising the Conservative Government for not consulting industries in Britain before signing the new £400,000,000 Anglo-Japanese trade agreement.

The motion will be moved in the House of Commons on Wednesday by Mr Clement Attlee, the Labour Party leader, in a three-hour debate on the new agreement, signed in London last Friday.

The 294-member Labour Opposition passed the motion after an 80-minute meeting tonight.

It read: "That this House, while accepting the principle that colonial territories should not be forced to buy British goods when it is contrary to their interests, regrets the action of Her Majesty's Government in entering into a trade agreement with the Japanese Government without prior consultation with the industries concerned."

The motion also regretted that agreement was considered without the British Government securing assurances that "Japanese exports will not revert to previous unfair trade practices."

Within an hour of the Labour motion, Conservative members representing Lancashire put forward an amendment as follows:

"That this House acknowledges the sense of responsibility to the nation and to the colonies, which Her Majesty's Government has shown and its impartiality in taking this decision, while recognising that advantages accrue to the trade of the Empire, urges the Government that any further arrangements should provide such safeguards to the interests of the textile industry as experience of the coming year may show to be necessary."—Reuter.

EX-SERVICEMEN PROTEST

Oldham, Feb. 9.

Lancashire ex-servicemen's organisations decided here today to send letters of protest to Sir Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister, and local members of Parliament against the British Government's decision to invite Mr Shigeru Yoshida, the Japanese Prime Minister, to Britain.

The protest will also object to the entry of Japanese goods into Britain as a result of the Anglo-Japanese trade pact.—Reuter.

Trade Mission To Moscow Runs Into Snag

Moscow, Feb. 9.

One of the British businessmen now ending a two-week visit here said today that Soviet trade organisations wanted to buy at 1950 prices and British exporters were thus faced with a serious costs problem.

Another of the party said there were "nice inquiries," but added "there's no point in going bankrupt in the process."

Competition in tenders was mentioned as coming from Sweden, Finland, Germany and Czechoslovakia.

The group have been studying Soviet inquiries for several million sterling worth of equipment, though few contracts have so far been concluded, and the Russians are described as "very hard bargaining." Three of the original British group of 33 left last week and two yesterday. Nine are expected to leave on Wednesday.

Those who remain will stay for varying periods, some possibly for several weeks, in an attempt to conclude deals on the spot. Others will submit tenders and specifications when they return to Britain. Eleven are going on to Warsaw later.

Soviet trade experts initiated a series of enquiries for equipment, mainly in the electrical and engineering field, during almost daily discussions with the British businessmen.

Mr F. J. Fielding, Managing Director of Fielding and Platt, Limited, Gloucester, said today "the Russians are prepared to pay only the prices they paid for similar goods in 1949-1950."

"QUITE IMPOSSIBLE," the British Board of Trade price index for mechanical engineering, which was 100.4 in June 1949, was 147.6 in December 1953. One can therefore appreciate it is quite impossible to accept 1950 prices. Unless we can get prices down, I do not see how we can swallow our share of the substantial Russian market."

Mr Fielding said he had been asked to compete with low Finnish and Swedish bids. "I do not know how the Finns and Swedes do it," he said.

Mr R. W. Asquith, Chairman of William Asquith, Limited, machine tool manufacturers, whose inquiry from the Russians for machine tools totals over £500,000, said "the Russians are displaying a desire to drive a hard bargain. There are nice inquiries, but there's no point in going bankrupt in the process."

Mr Asquith said his company faced competition from Germany and Czechoslovakia.

Mr T. L. Kendall, Director of Rustin and Hornby, Limited, engine manufacturers of Lincoln, said he was returning to Britain on Wednesday with an inquiry which "when split among three firms might total £250,000 for diesel engine generating sets and shunting locomotives."

Mr Kendall, who signed a small contract for spare parts while in Moscow, said he would tender for the big inquiry in a week. "There's every indication the price will be forthcoming," he said.

Mr C. Scobell and Mr H. A. Downes, representing the import-export company, Bland Brothers

No News Of Boat Since Sending SOS

Los Angeles, Feb. 9.

The racing schooner Dirigo II, which early today reported that it was in distress 1,800 miles south of here, has been out of radio communication since sending its SOS, the Coast Guard reported.

The Coast Guard said it understood that Navy ships were being sent from the Panama Canal Zone to the aid of the ship, but no further word had been received.

The Coast Guard reported that the schooner was skippered by James W. Crawford of St Petersburg, Florida, and there were three others aboard.

In his SOS message, Crawford reported that gasoline drums leaked on deck had broken loose in heavy seas.

The Coast Guard anticipated that naval units would reach the vicinity of the Dirigo early tomorrow morning.—United Press.

STOP PRESS

Wrecked Comet Located

Rome, Feb. 10.

The wreckage of the British Comet stricken which crashed into the sea off Elba last month was located at a depth of 132 metres, about nine miles south-west of Cape Calamita, it was reported last night.

The first sign of the location of the wreckage came when a fishing boat caught an unidentified object in its nets. Four British ships then joined in helping Italian fishing vessels which let down their nets and hauled up to the surface a suitcase and a box of medicine.

One of the British ships, the Wakefield, could see the shape of the wreckage on its television screen and identify it as the fuselage of the Comet.—France Press.

THE BERLIN CONFERENCE

Mr Molotov Promises A "New Plan"

Berlin, Feb. 9.

Mr Vyacheslav Molotov, Soviet Foreign Minister, today rejected the West's final appeal for free all-German elections but promised a new plan for European security at Wednesday's Big Four session.

On that basis, the British, United States and French Foreign Ministers agreed to discuss the deadlocked German peace treaty once again on Wednesday.

Mr Molotov said he thought the Foreign Ministers' Deputies could begin work on preparing a peace treaty for Germany immediately after the Berlin conference ended.

At today's four-hour meeting, the Ministers agreed to hold a second secret session on Thursday to continue discussion of international tension and a five-power meeting with Communist China.

The first secret session on Monday was inconclusive. The French spokesman also said the Ministers decided to discuss the Austrian state treaty—last item on their three-point agenda—in open session on Friday.

Dr Leopold Figl, the Austrian Foreign Minister, and five of his officials arrived here earlier today by air from Vienna to attend the talks on Austria.

Mr Molotov spoke for 90 minutes of today's session, at which the British Foreign Secretary, Mr Anthony Eden, presided.

REJECTS APPEAL

According to a British spokesman, Mr Molotov rejected the final appeal by the West last Saturday to accept the general principles of the five-point Eden plan for uniting Germany through free elections.

Mr Molotov called on the three Western Ministers to declare whether they had anything to say about guaranteeing European security.

A Soviet spokesman quoted Mr Molotov as saying he believed that "to follow his path of creating a European Army and in fact reverting German militarism would be to move not towards the strengthening of peace, but towards the acceleration of a new war in Europe."

After Mr Molotov had spoken, Mr Dulles said "Since I have heard nothing new I have nothing to say."

Mr Eden told Mr Molotov that his offer last week to probing the 20-year Anglo-Soviet treaty signed in 1932 still held good.

He suggested the Ministers should realise that if they could not agree on a plan for Germany they must end discussion on this topic.

Mr Georges Bidault, the French Foreign Minister, said

Record Flight

Honolulu, Feb. 9.

The Tokyo-Honolulu jet-stream speed record was shattered again today when a Military Air Transport Service C-97 Stratocruiser flew the 3,900-mile distance non-stop in nine hours and nine minutes.

The MATS plane knocked nine minutes from the record set yesterday by a Pan American Stratocruiser.

The new mark represents the fifth time in two weeks a new record has been established for the jet stream assisted flight—United Press.

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Scelba Has Tentative Govt Ready

Rome, Feb. 9.
The Italian Premier-designate, M. Mario Scelba, will submit a tentative list for an Italian cabinet to the President of the Republic, Signor Luigi Einaudi, tomorrow, it was learned here tonight.

It was understood that Signor Scelba would himself hold the portfolio of the Interior, a post which he had held under the several cabinets of the former Premier Alcide De Gasperi. The new cabinet is to be made up of the most part of members of the Christian Democratic Party, Signor Scelba's own party.

It was understood that the portfolio of foreign affairs had been assigned to Altiero Sottocasa. The cabinet will include 14 Christian Democrats, three Liberals, two Republicans, and two Social Democrats—France Press.

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REDS SHIFTING BLAME ON WEST

Failure In Berlin Talks Expected

Berlin, Feb. 9.
Western diplomats said today the official Communist Press have started to prepare for break-down of the Four Power conference by shifting the blame for failure squarely on the West.
As the Foreign Ministers entered the final and crucial stage of their discussions on Germany, the Soviet High Commission's organ, Taeglich Rundschau, warned bluntly the one and only way for a settlement was to accept Moscow's blueprint for unification.

High C To The Rescue

Santiago, Chile, Feb. 9.
Unmusical hold-up men found themselves out of their depths when they attacked singer Gaby Ramos and her escort, Eduardo Rojas, returning home here in the early hours.
Gaby intoned a high C which promptly brought a radio car to the rescue. She also took off one of her shoes and counter-attacked, wounding both assailants.
Eduardo, with no such defence to offer, was severely stabbed in the chest.—China Mail Special.

Hardman Given New Air Post In UK

London, Feb. 9.
Air Marshal Sir Donald Hardman, who has been Chief of Air Staff, Royal Australian Air Force, since January 1952, has been appointed to be Air member for Supply and Organisation with the Royal Air Force, the Air Ministry announced tonight.
His appointment was included among several announced by both the Air Ministry and the War Office tonight affecting posts in Australia, Pakistan and the Far East.
Sir Donald Hardman will succeed Air Chief Marshal Sir John Whitworth who is to retire.
Sir John, before he took up his present post in 1952, had been Air Officer Commanding Malaya since 1947.
BORN IN HONGKONG
The War Office appointments named Brigadier D.D.C. Tulloch, of Headquarters Southern Command, in Britain, to be General Officer Commanding Singapore District. The appointment is from April this year.
Brigadier Tulloch was born in Hongkong in 1903.
Colonel T.P.D. Scott, Deputy Assistant General of General Headquarters, Middle East Land Forces, is to be training adviser to the Pakistan Army from June this year.—Reuter.

Weathermen In France "Out" Indefinitely

Paris, Feb. 9.
The Christian Union (C.F.C.) of the French National Weather Bureau today declared that it was joining the Socialist and Communist-led unions in the indefinite strike in communications issued from the union headquarters here this morning.
The reason given for the strike was the "uncertainty" that the union's wage claims would be met. Negotiations between the government and the unions are still continuing.
Meteorologists, demanding more pay, struck work for an indefinite period at airports throughout France today. International airlines maintained normal services by exchanging emergency meteorological reports from their home countries.
The 1,800 workers demanding pay increases receive 25,000 francs a month (about £25). Despite conflicting orders by the three trade unions which have called the strike, the rank and file at most airports followed the Communist lead and walked out this morning.
Only one, Le Bourget, the capital's two airports, Marignane (Marseille) and Bordeaux-Mérignac, reported an almost total stoppage.—Reuter.

Western officials said today's opening shots foreshadowed a concerted Soviet and East German propaganda campaign to shift all responsibility for a break-down of the conference to the Western powers.

The West, aware of its possible effects on neutralism in Europe, has decided, they said, to counter the campaign by continuing negotiations with the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. V. M. Molotov, to expose to the world what they regard as Moscow's unwillingness to reach agreement.

From Moscow the official organ Pravda also charged today that the West is not concerned at the Berlin talks with a German solution, but with the fate of the strategic plans of its North Atlantic alliance.

Neues Deutschland, organ of the East German Communist Party, told its readers in a two-column question-and-answer survey that it is the Soviet alone which has "the interests of the German people at heart."

SOVIET PROPOSALS
"The real constructive proposals have all come from the Soviet delegation," the paper said, listing Mr. Molotov's proposals for a five-Power meeting, a world conference on disarmament, a referendum on the EDC and Bonn treaties, and the creation of a provisional German government.

But at the same time the Soviet High Commission paper gave the following warning: "The reunification of Germany can be brought about only on such terms and by such methods as would give full guarantees that in a Germany of the future militarists and Fascists will never be allowed to come to power by any means."

It is not enough to consider German unification as a purely organisational problem or one of electoral technique. It must be treated and solved as a political question.
The Western Powers expect to produce more compromise proposals to demonstrate their good will, officials said today. They expect that the conference will for this reason be extended well into next week.—United Press.

Moscow, Feb. 9.

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. has appointed Anatoly Kuzmin the Minister of Steel Production, and Piotr Lomako as the Minister of Non-Ferrous Metals. It was announced here today.
Kuzmin was the first Vice-Minister for the Metal Industry.—France-Press.

Three out of every ten children leaving secondary modern schools in the south-east, says a survey published recently, are not fit to:

Work out a coal bill—because they cannot find the cost of a ton of coal at 5s. a cwt.; or Go to the post office for stamps—because they cannot say how many 2½d. stamps can be bought for half a crown.

POP
YOU'VE GOT TO GIVE ME SOMETHING TO GET RID OF IT!
I GAVE YOU A PLASTER TO GET RID OF IT!
IT GOT RID OF IT. NOW I WANT SOMETHING TO GET RID OF THAT!
TO PREPARE YOURSELF FOR THE FUTURE, YOU MUST HAVE A GOOD KNOWLEDGE OF GEOGRAPHY AND ARITHMETIC.

Mary Rescues Her Little Lambs



Little girl to the rescue is eight-year-old Mary Barton, seen as she brings in two young lambs, from the heavy snow on her father's farm in Kent, England. They were only born into this cold-cold world three days ago.—Express Photo.

In Moslem Uzbekistan

Communist Chiefs Frown On "Child Marriages"

Moscow, Feb. 9.
Communist chiefs in Uzbekistan are continuing a sharp drive against "child marriages" in the predominantly Moslem Republic of Soviet Central Asia.

"Literary Gazette," the newspaper of Soviet intellectuals, has upbraided school and party officials for negligence in failing to stop the marriage of a school-girl at Pskent, near Tashkent, the Uzbek capital.
The marriage, which the newspaper labels "a crime," took place, it says, "under the eyes of many people, officials of Party, Soviet and public organisations."

The newspaper declared that child marriages kept girls away from school—and pointed to the graduation of only 21 Uzbek girls from three Tashkent technical institutes in the last 10 years as an example of how it plays havoc with the educational level.

"STRUGGLING FEBLY" "Literary Gazette" said that the Uzbek Education Ministry is "struggling feebly" against the practice of child marriages. "These are cases where girls who do not wish to be subjugated to old haramite customs are subjected to persecution by

parents, husband and reactionary clergy," the newspaper declared. Party and local officials "sometimes shut their eyes to these shameful cases."
The Uzbek Government recently ordered a campaign against "survivals of the past." Two senior education officials in Tashkent were dismissed for polygamy.—China Mail Special.

East Germany Expanding Police Force

East Germany is going rapidly ahead with mechanisation plans for her 80,000 strong "police" army and is making great efforts to improve recruiting, despite Soviet propaganda against German rearmament, officials here said today.
They were commenting on press reports from Berlin that new East German units were being formed, equipped with Russia's modern Stalin 1 and Stalin 2 heavy tanks.
Two reports added that the East German Communist regime had planned to triple its air force during the coming year.
The Foreign Office spokesman said today he could not confirm that further expansion was planned but added: "The East Germans may well have something like this in mind."—Reuter.

Released By Reds

Helinski, Feb. 8.
Sixty-one Finnish subjects, who have served prison sentences in Russia or have been pardoned, were handed over to Finnish frontier guards at Vuolikkala today.
Most of them had left Finland illegally for the Soviet Union after the end of the last war.—Reuter.

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FLARE-UP OF TENSION OVER MOROCCO

Spanish Move To Secede Seen In Franco's Statement

Tension between France and Spain flared up over Morocco today following General Franco's declaration that Spain refused to recognise the new French-supported Sultan of Morocco and considered the Caliph of Spanish Morocco to be sovereign in the Spanish zone.

French officials in Paris are reported to be taking a serious view of General Franco's statement, as it implies Spanish secession from the Sultan's authority.

In Madrid, the Spanish monarchist newspaper A.B.C. yesterday published an article laying claim to the international zone of Tangier in Morocco.

She Killed Two Lions

Mocamedes, Portuguese

The wife of a government official at the administrative post at Mocamedes, killed two lions in one day. She helped her husband and another man track one lion that had crept off an ox into the jungle, and after the trader had brought it to bay she shot it dead.

On their return they ran into a group of eight lions and she again killed one of the beasts and helped to wound some of the others. Five more were found dead the next day, making a total bag of seven lions.—China Mail Special.

Dr Malan Will Call These African Natives "Foreign"

Capetown, Feb. 9.

Africans from British territories neighbouring the Union of South Africa will henceforth be regarded as "foreign natives" in the Union, according to a bill published here today.

This means that the Africans from the territories of Basutoland, Bechuanaland, and Ciskei will be unable to remain in South African towns and work there without written permission. It is provided that those already lawfully employed, when the bill comes into operation will be allowed to stay.

The bill was proposed as an amendment to the Natives (Urban Areas) Consolidation Act, which is regarded in some quarters as a reprisal for Britain's refusal to merge the three native territories with the Union of South Africa.—France-Press.

A British Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 3 Spherical (8).
- 7 Aroma (6).
- 8 Rapt (8).
- 10 Indiarubber (6).
- 13 Told (7).
- 15 Disorder (4).
- 17 Amuses (7).
- 18 Cut short (7).
- 20 Flower (4).
- 21 Gifts (7).
- 26 Container for soup (6).
- 27 Roller (8).
- 28 Bury (6).
- 29 Made beloved (8).

DOWN

- 1 Let down (5).
- 2 Sum (6).
- 3 Welcome (5).
- 4 Tub (4).
- 5 Refuse (6).
- 6 Nook (6).
- 9 Believed (5).
- 11 Be repeated (5).
- 12 Sallors (8).
- 14 Swell (6).
- 15 Measuring device (5).
- 16 Express (6).
- 18 Ring (6).
- 19 Plundered (6).
- 22 Sensational (5).
- 23 Pond dwellers (5).
- 24 Trap (6).
- 25 Indian coin (4).

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD.—Across: 1. Mithap, 5. Civil, 8. Wagon, 9. Enthus, 10. Humid, 11. Slicer, 12. Idea, 13. Reels, 14. Impede, 15. Spread, 16. Slenk, 17. Limp, 18. Usher, 19. Tempo, 20. Augers, 21. Amend, 22. Adore, 23. Tested, 24. DOWN: 1. Meetings, 2. Suspense, 3. Awe, 4. Pastime, 5. Colored, 6. Inured, 7. Idiot, 8. Sediment, 9. Supposed, 10. Friction, 11. Pageant, 12. Pauper, 13. Tread, 14. Rude.

Night Repairs For "Olympia"



This is a stern view of the Greek Line Flagship, the 23,000-ton Olympia, in drydock at Southampton after running aground off Hythe, Hampshire on her third Atlantic crossing to New York. Repair work went on all night to get the ship back to sea as quickly as possible.—Reuterphoto.

Lord Goddard Says: "That's The Moral"

"Women Should Take More Care Of What They Do With U.S. Soldiers"

London, Feb. 9.

Britain's Lord Chief Justice, Lord Goddard, hinted today that American soldiers who have illegitimate children in Britain may soon be ordered to pay maintenance fees.

Lord Goddard and two other judges dismissed an application for a warrant to arrest an American airman, Robert A. Warren, for non-payment of a civil debt.

CLAIM TO TANGIER

Madrid, Feb. 9. The Spanish monarchist newspaper, A.B.C., today published an article laying claim to the international zone of Tangier in Morocco.

The newspaper said that the "Spanish people" unanimously wished to see Tangier integrated in the Spanish zone of Morocco, "where it should always have been."

After recalling that the Spaniards and the Portuguese were the first European peoples to set foot on African soil, the article said: "Tangier is, inside Spanish Morocco, an ignominy in our history. The artificial Tangier problem has been the dialectical disguise used by France and Britain to veto the rights of Morocco and Spain, and tear this city from our zone."

The Tangier International zone is a permanently neutralised and demilitarised area, under agreements signed in 1923 and 1925 by Britain, France, and Spain. In 1925, Spain was given partial control of the zone. During the war, Spanish Morocco occupied Tangier, but in 1945, international control was restored by Britain, the United States, France, and the Soviet Union. Italy was re-admitted to the control committee in 1948.—France-Press.

Austria—'Mediator Between East And West'

Vienna, Feb. 9. The Austrian Chancellor, Dr. Julius Raab, said today Austria could play an important part as mediator between the east and west, but only if she were free and sovereign.

In an interview with the newspaper Oberosterreichische Nachrichten, Chancellor Raab said: "Austria does not constitute a military factor. We had enough with the experience of the two wars. Our people refuse once and for all to join any military alliance whatsoever."

The Chancellor added: "This position will not be changed even if the Berlin conference ends without any result concerning Austria. We shall continue to claim full freedom, and we are convinced that in the long run, neutrality and peace will also prevail in international politics.—France-Press.

Soviet Russia Turning Out 100 Atom Bombs Or Shells A Year Says Sweden

Stockholm, Feb. 9.

The Swedish defence staff publication, "Contact With the Armed Forces", estimated today the Soviet Union is turning out about 100 atom bombs or atom shells a year.

This figure, the publication added in a 60-page review of the great powers' probable armaments, includes light and heavy types.

It put the Soviet Union's present stock of atom weapons at "several hundreds." "But the prerequisites exist for an increase of both stocks and output and both may be 10 times as great by 1960."

The Journal, which is designed and may also be ten times as great by 1960. The Journal said that Britain's supplies are "insignificant but gradually increasing." "By and by, it will be technically possible for small states to manufacture atomic weapons. If they have the necessary new materials," the Journal said.

The increasing supply of atomic weapons and the increased possibilities of transporting them can be expected to lead to their increased usage against military objectives.

WEIGHT FACTOR

Of the increased weight of the hydrogen bomb will make the possibility of transporting it the decisive factor in its usage. "Experiments with explosive charges of the hydrogen bomb type have been carried out both in the United States and in the Soviet Union. They are reported to have aimed primarily at the production of a type which can be transported by aircraft."

"It is possible that in the beginning, only the biggest types of aircraft, like the American B-52 can be used for carrying hydrogen bombs."

The energy content of these hydrogen bombs will, perhaps, be about 100 times greater than the bombs which were dropped on Japan. This means that their radius of action will be about five times greater.—Reuter.

The proposal is that the new royal yacht Britannia, in which the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will embark at Tobruk on May 1, will come up the Thames as far as the Pool of London on May 15. Small naval craft would escort her from the Estuary.

At London Bridge the Queen and the Duke would transfer to a launch and land at Westminster Pier, only a few hundred yards from the Houses of Parliament, where the Prime Minister and members of the Government would welcome her home.

The Britannia is small enough—4,000 tons—to negotiate the Pool of London, and the present proposal is made possible by the Queen's decision to use this ship for the last lap of the homeward journey.

'SHAKE-DOWN' CRUISE

Naturally no final decision can be made until all the details have been worked out and until the Queen has given her consent to the idea.

But if it materialises great numbers of her subjects would be able to see the homeward-bound Britannia and the homeward-bound Queen.

The Britannia was commissioned only a few weeks ago. She is now on "shake-down" cruise off the west coast of Scotland. She is due at Portsmouth, her depot, on February 28.

There is a possibility that Prince Charles and Princess Anne may sail in the Britannia to Tobruk so that they can return home with their parents.

The last occasion when a reigning monarch sailed up the Thames was in 1842, when Queen Victoria landed at Greenwich after a voyage from Leith in the 871-ton steamer Trident, then the largest steamship in the world.

Leopards Settling Into Berlin Weather

Berlin, Feb. 9.

Two pairs of leopards, which arrived at the West Berlin zoo by plane from India during the great cold wave, seemed to have satisfactorily resisted the climate.

The young animals, a gift from the Pulton family of Bhatkwa near the Bhutan border, were presented to press reporters today. Their cage was heated by infra red light.

Since their arrival here last January 30, each leopard put on three pounds. They are now mainly fed on ice and milk, but their diet will soon be modified to satisfy their carnivorous instincts, and to make "true leopards" of them.—France-Press.

Russia To Enter Film Festival

Paris, Feb. 9.

The Soviet Union has agreed to take part in the 1954 international film festival at Cannes from March 25 to April 9. It was learned from well-informed sources here today.

The Russians have not participated in the Cannes competitions since 1951. At least 20 nations have already sent official acceptance of the invitation extended to them to the cinema festival.

They include the United States, Japan, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, and India, and for the first time in any international film competition, Pakistan.—France-Press.

Everest Team To Get US Medal

Washington, Feb. 9.

President Eisenhower will present the National Geographic Society's Hubbard Medal on Thursday to the expedition which conquered Mt Everest last year, the Society said today.

Mr. John Hunt, the leader of the expedition, and Sir Edmund Hillary, who, together with Tenzing Norgay, reached the top of the mountain on May 29, will receive the medal on behalf of the expedition.

The White House presentation marks the first time that the medal has been given to a non-American expedition.—Reuter.

Giant Brought His Own Bed

Memphis, Tennessee, Feb. 9.

Jim Tarver, 68, brought his own bed—a 10-foot one—from Turrell, Arkansas, to enter a hospital here for a physical check-up. Tarver is eight feet, six inches tall and weighs 400 pounds.—United Press.

French "Worker Priests" Are Defiant

A statement released in Paris, purporting to come from the worker priests who were recently ordered by their bishops to transform radically their mission to working-class populations, suggests that the episcopal instructions are to be fought to the last, and that many priests would rather forgo their mission altogether than carry it on under the new conditions.

The revised system which the French bishops, at the behest of the Pope, recently imposed upon the worker priests, forbids them to work manually for more than three hours a day and also requires their resignation from any trade union, works committee, other temporal organization of which they may have been members.

The statement, which is almost certainly authentic, attacked the bishops' decision. They deny that living like workmen has ever interfered with their faith or their priesthood and affirm that their mission cannot be carried out without working normally and accepting the commitments and responsibilities of a worker.

"We do not see how," the statement says, "in the name of the Gospel, priests can be forbidden to share the condition of millions of oppressed men."

EXPLOITATION

There are some striking references to the employers and the Government, "who are accumulating exploitation and oppression so as to blot out at all costs the progress of the working class and safeguard their own privileges," and another cut at those "who are used to putting religion to the service of their interests and of their class prejudices."

The statement ends with a flat rejection of the new system enjoined by the bishops, and an assurance that "our decisions will be taken with full respect for the working classes and to the struggle of the workers for their liberation."

The document is signed with the names of 73 priests, which is not far short of the total of all worker priests.

Official Going To Djakarta On "Routine Visit"

The Hague, Feb. 9.

The Acting Indonesian High Commissioner in Holland, Susanto Tirtoprodjo, will go to Djakarta on February 14 for a "routine" visit on the request of his Government, it was learned today.

In political circles in The Hague it was said, however, that Mr. Tirtoprodjo's trip was connected with the Indonesian desire to dissolve the Dutch-Indonesian Union.

Reports from Djakarta recently said that Indonesian plenipotentiary in Holland, Mr. Tirtoprodjo, was not prepared to do so.

This report caused some amazement in official Dutch circles who pointed out that the Dutch Government in September, 1948, expressed its willingness to "start negotiations with the Indonesian Government on the dissolution of the union."

The Indonesian plenipotentiary, however, refused to discuss the matter, and the Dutch Government has since then been unable to reach an agreement with the Indonesian Government on the dissolution of the union.—Reuter.

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A Hollywood Star is Having Fun Playing The King

GREGORY THE GREAT TRIES A FAROUK LINE

By DAVID LEWIN

THE royal yacht Alexandria, that once belonged to King Farouk, left the moorings below the palace for the first time since the abdication, and set sail for the break-water outside Alexandria harbour.

Aboard is a new monarch wearing his dressing gown. He is King Abdullah, better known as Gregory the Great—the Hollywood-Russian actor who is making a fictional film here with a certain basis of fact.

With Gregory the Great in his royal 3,769-ton yacht is his court, which consists of English, American, Arabic, French, Italian, Greek, Russian, and Swedish film workers.

While a band plays somewhere on shore and a bugler stands forward, the yacht, manned by the Egyptian Navy, puts to sea with only a little more fuss than attends the departure of the Queen Mary, and just as many tugs.

'Bandaria'

The cruise of the Mahroussa is all of three miles, but at least 14 sailors are present to haul up the gangplank, which sticks halfway and nearly lands one of the crew in the drink.

Ratoff changes into a white uniform with enough gold braid to dazzle anyone not wearing sun glasses.

In the film "Abdullah the Great," he plays a king who likes wine and women, and is finally forced to abdicate by a revolution in the army.

brought the London-made pyramids to Egypt for "Caesar and Cleopatra."

As betrays his station, Ratoff lunches in the royal palace every day, but democratically has reduced the personal palace staff he was given from six to one. I joined him for a meal and used Farouk's gold cutlery. Gold improves the taste of cold fish considerably.

"I feel at ease in the palace," says Ratoff. "This kind of business suits me—I have always been a monarchist. Every day I like it more, and I even behave like a king when I am away from the film. Yet every day brings revolution and my abdication nearer. That depresses me."

He plays a scene with Kay Kendall and Sydney Chaplin. Says Chaplin: "This is quite a part, but all I have said so far is 'Yes, your Majesty,' and 'No, your Majesty.' I have bigger scenes, but I don't know what they are. They haven't been written yet."

Two scriptwriters, Rodney Ackland, London playwright, and George St. George, an American-Russian, are attending to that. Ratoff is also writing script when not acting and directing, and an Egyptian officer adds his thoughts too.

In the film the king is always escorted by beautiful women, including Kay Kendall and Italian star Marina Berti, who was in "Quo Vadis."

Says "King Abdullah": "I like women and flowers to surround me, and I have a special uniform for every occasion."

A 6 a.m. Start

Miss Kendall has been given reddish-blond hair for the part, and she says: "With this colour I look rather like Danny Kaye playing Charley's Aunt—and I feel like it too."

Ratoff is having difficulty with some of his dialogue, which he learns every morning beginning at six o'clock. He says a line, "It is a debt of

Nathaniel Gubbins

"RED ROBIN HOOD"

BEING a pantomime "Red Robin Hood" based on the opinion of Mrs. Thomas White, American adviser to the State Education Board, that Robin Hood was a communist.

The scene is a room in Nottingham Castle where Senator Joe McCarthy, the wicked baron, is discovered instructing two hired robbers to kidnap The Babes so that Robin Hood, their protector, shall attempt a rescue, be captured and brought before the Un-American activities committee.

McCarthy: I understand this Robin Hood is in the forest doing good. He robs the barons and their chums. And gives the dough to lazy bums. To anyone who gets the sack. Like Simple Simon, Idle Jack and lives in some deep forest glade. With Jack's old mother and a maid.

1st Robber: Maid Marion, if maid she be.

2nd Robber: Ha ha, ha, ha, he, he, he.

1st Robber: She feeds the Babes on stolen pelf.

2nd Robber: She's certainly some babe herself.

1st Robber: And Idle Jack is always milking.

2nd Robber: And Simple Simon's always striking.

1st Robber: White Jack's old mother moans all day.

2nd Robber: And draws her health insurance pay.

MacCarthy: No wonder barons all get het up. About this communistic set up.

If we can't find some quick solution. We'll have a gol darned revolution.

If you can snatch the Babes away. Bold robbers you shall have your pay.

Scene: A glade in Sherwood Forest where Maid Marion is discovered powdering her nose and making faces at herself in a hand mirror.

Maid Marion: Dear Robin Hood so brave, but cold. Dear Robin Hood with a heart of gold. With a heart as pure as pure can be. Much too pure for a girl like me.

(Idle Jack and Simple Simon enter.)

Idle Jack to Maid Marion: You said it.

Maid Marion: Said what?

Idle Jack: That Robin Hood's a great sucker to take any notice of you.

Maid Marion: I never said anything of the kind, you big tramp, you.

Simple Simon: Don't insult my friend Jack.

Maid Marion: And you ought to have your brain examined. Are you on strike again?

Simple Simon: Certainly.

Maid Marion: When you're out of work?

Simple Simon: I'm always out of work.

Maid Marion: Then what are you striking for?

Simple Simon: More unemployment pay.

Maid Marion: Mayoe you're not as simple as you look.

Idle Jack: Idle, ideal Jack am I?

Simple Simon: He never works and I never try.

Idle Jack: They think he's simple.

Simple Simon: I think I'm fly.

Both: Hi, diddle, hi diddle, hi-ti-ti.

Idle Jack: I lounge about the place all day.

Simple Simon: I dream my foolish life away.

Idle Jack: Drawing unemployment pay.

Both: Hurrah, hurrah, hurrah, hooray.

(Idle Jack's mother enters leaning on a stick.)

Idle Jack: And there's my poor rheumatic Mum.

Simple Simon: Always sick but she's a daisy.

Idle Jack: Like me she's always on the bum.

Both: Ha ha, ha ha, ho ho, hum hum.

Jack's Mother: Is Robin Hood back from Nottingham?

Idle Jack: Not yet, mother.

Jack's Mother: He promised to get my sick pay and my prescription made up at the chemist. And I hope he brings plenty of loot from the baron's kitchen. I don't think I get enough to eat!

Maid Marion: You get far too much at your age.

Jack's Mother: Be quiet, you slut!

Maid Marion: You eat yourself sick and then want free medicines to put yourself right.

Jack's Mother: If you don't keep quiet I'll tell Robin Hood about the Babes.

Maid Marion: If you don't keep your trap shut I'll strangle you. Listen. Here comes Robin Hood and his merry men.

(Voices off of Robin Hood and men.)

Under the greenwood tree we live.

We take from the rich, to the poor we give.

Though poor ourselves we're merry and free.

You don't pay rent for a greenwood tree.

(Robin Hood and men enter.) Our days are long and our hearts are light.

Our dreams are sweet in the woodland night.

In no man's debt we're merry and free.

And you don't pay rent for a greenwood tree.

The rich man frets and the rich man sighs.

His burden to carry until he dies.

We carry no burden, we're merry and free.

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the baron's kitchen. Robin gives Jack's mother some money and a sackful of medicine bottles.)

Robin Hood: There you are, all of you. Enough meat for a week's feasting. Run along mother and light a fire for the pot. Idle Jack will help for once and this poor fool Simple Simon will gather wood.

(They all exit but Robin Hood and Maid Marion who puts her hand on Robin's arm, but he turns away.)

Robin Hood: Where are The Babes?

Maid Marion: They sleep behind yonder tree.

(As she speaks the heads of the two robbers appear above a bush.)

Maid Marion: Dear Robin, not that ice-cold stare. Admire you not my eyes and hair. The bloom upon my unspotted face. My figure and my girlish air. Or does some dark suspicion leap Within your mind about my past?

In other words, you priggish swine, Do you believe the Babes are mine?

1st Robber: Atta, girl, you're doing fine.

Maid Marion: If so, I'll clear this mystery. I found the Babes beneath a tree.

2nd Robber: Ha ha, ha ha, he, he, he.

(The robbers cross stage to snatch the Babes. Before Robin Hood can intervene Idle Jack and Simple Simon rush at the robbers and a fist fight ensues. There is a flash of light and The Fairy Queen, resembling Dr. Edith Summerskill, appears.)

Fairy Queen: Oh wicked men, desist, desist. You shall not box with glove or fist. Although you may not feel the pain. Each blow that's struck upsets the brain. And those indulging in this sin. May end up in the looney bin.

1st Robber, pointing to Simon: He's barmy already.

2nd Robber: Those that ain't barmy are a lot of dirty communists.

Fairy Queen: Foolish robbers. These good people are not communists. It's Joe McCarthy who is the communist.

1st Robber: Strike me pink.

2nd Robber: Strike me pink.

Fairy Queen: The cleverest communist of them all. By destroying faith in democratic justice he creates sympathy for communism, and hopes to be Commissioner of The World.

1st Robber, pointing to Maid Marion: She's been up to no good, anyway.

Fairy Queen: Again you're wrong. Poison tongues have been slandering this honest girl who has been caring for the children of her widowed sister. And shame on Robin Hood for believing otherwise.

(Robin Hood puts his arm around Marion.)

Fairy Queen: Now all is sweetness, all is light. Suspicion ended, wrong put right. For in my Welfare State we live. Where those who have too much shall give. Or if they won't, to help the nation. We'll take it from them by taxation. Where communism cannot thrive. Because we keep the poor alive. And those who are too tired to toil. These idle men shall share the spoil. While those who stuff until they're ill. Shall have prescriptions and a pill.

1st Robber: Can we join your lot?

Fairy Queen: Certainly. You shall be my tax collectors.

1st Robber: It's just the job. It's made for me.

2nd Robber: Ha ha, ha ha, he, he, he.

Fairy Queen: And so, thus in time to give a bride away. Ends our little play. Bold Robin Hood, you have my leave.

Robin Hood: Thank you, Fairy Queen. We'll meet you again. Good night.

(Fairy Queen exits.)

When Churchill Trembled

By J. W. TAYLOR

A PARLIAMENTARY anniversary of note which has been passed over without much notice, despite its measure of significance. In these times, was that 53 years ago young Winston Churchill, darling of the Conservative Party in the "Khaki Election" of 1900 as the newly-elected Member for Oldham which had rejected him the previous year, made his maiden speech in the Commons—January 27, 1901, to be precise.

He made the speech in a state of high nervousness—this from a man who had been in the thick of a cavalry charge at Omdurman, who had been captured by the Boers and escaped them and went on to plunge into further adventures as intrepid war correspondent and gallant soldier; from a towering, fighting figure on whom the Boers, seeking his presence dead or alive (reward £250) offered a particularly audacious escape, indicated the indignity of describing him as "about 5 ft. 11 in. tall, indifferent build, walks with a forward stoop, pale appearance, red-brown hair, small head, hardly noticeable moustaches, talks through his nose and cannot pronounce his letter 's' properly."

Indeed, he was rescued by the Parliamentary Service from that

young Winston "trembled in the Commons with a nervousness that threatened the promise of his future career." This of a man destined to become the greatest politician of our time, twice a Prime Minister, author of five Budgets, and always the complete Parliamentary technician.

In the speech, he gave an early shock to his new leaders by drily remarking that if he were a Boer he hoped he would still be fighting in the field. He was following a speaker Winston himself described as "a rising young Welshman, a pro-Boer and one of our most important bugbears, named Lloyd George."

Both men later became Prime Minister at a supreme crisis in the country's fortunes.

Veteran's Tip

The trouble was that Lloyd George was to have moved an amendment during the debate on South Africa and the Boer War, and Churchill had memorized a particularly eloquent speech to counter the Welsh attack. But Lloyd George did not choose to move the amendment, much to the dismay of Winston and very nearly to his political ruin.

A mere Parliamentary fledgling, as yet the new Member for Oldham, knew not how to begin, but lived in bliss the day that he should have some brilliant enough to have taken a seat beside the veteran King of the House, Thomas Gibson.

No doubt unaware that he would be saving Churchill for political posterity and the country's leadership, Mr. Bowles sensed the young man's dilemma and blazed vigorously into the air. His words that should attain immortality. They were: "You might say, 'Instead of making his violent speech without moving his moderate amendment, the Member for Carnarvon had better have moved his moderate amendment without making his violent speech.'"

He did as he was bid, and an appreciative House, roared approval and warmed to the young man. Having thus thrown off his initial embarrassment, Churchill went on to give that brilliant oratory he was so often to use with such remarkable success in his public life.

Whatever tactics Lloyd George had in mind, the effects of them were completely nullified by the Churchillian attack, so much so that H. H. Asquith was moved to remark that it "is the first speech in a Parliamentary career of the highest distinction." Thus he gained an initial oratorical triumph and the nation, for 53 years, do date, during which time there have often been head shaking and hints that he would be resigning of "betting." Such rumours and speculations are now once again dead, revived. "Appearances may be deceiving," be it noted, by the way, in the speech, Lloyd George said: "I am not a Boer."

Maid Marion: You get far too much at your age.

Jack's Mother: Be quiet, you slut!

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Robin Hood: Thank you, Fairy Queen. We'll meet you again. Good night.

(Fairy Queen exits.)

MANCHESTER UNITED v. BOLTON WANDERERS



London, Feb. 9.
Gordon Pirie British

Colombo, Feb. 9

London, Féb. 9:

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DIFFERENT.
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Pirie? No, The Toast Is Johnny Walton

Says HAROLD MAYES

Everybody in athletics is painting a rosy picture. They might even be painting it with paint Gordon Pirie, the British wonder-man of the track, is hoping to sell. Far better, in my view, if they did a little sign-writing and let everyone see, in bold letters, the word "hypocritism."

I don't object to professional athletes in any sport—and that includes athletics. But I do object to professional athletes under any other guise, and that is exactly what I regard the Pirie venture to be. "Puff—puff" Gordon was wanted in the States, where a number of universities are said to have offered him athletic scholarships. But the people who run athletics—I hesitate to say control it, because that would be stretching a point a little too far—said that his amateur status would be in danger if he accepted.

So Pirie has a job as a paint salesman, with a reported salary of £760 a year, plus commission, plus the use of a car and he is quoted as saying: "No longer shall I have to rush home from work and train in the dark. If I want to I shall

be able to train in daylight, and that is a very great help to somebody like me who has to train for long periods every day."

Frankly, I hope he'll be able to train as long as he likes every day, for that's the only way our athletes can match the commercial performers of other countries.

WORTHY OF HIRE

But please don't, from this day forward, let me hear any of our athletics officials complaining bitterly that we can't hope to compete with the rest of the world because their athletes are supported from various outside sources while ours are "pure amateurs."

Don't get me wrong. I believe that every sportsman, whatever his field of activity, is worthy of his hire. If he pulls in the

crowds—for even amateur athletics doesn't turn away turn-of-mind takings—neither he nor his family, if any, should suffer financially because it takes him time to get fit to do his sporting job.

It's not so long since I had a vigorous argument with one athletics chief on the point. "What," I asked him, "would be the first question the majority of your athletes would ask me if I were to phone them and ask them to run at a particular meeting?"

"What's the fare?" was his reply.

HOW MUCH?

"Cut it a word," I told him, "and you'll be nearer the mark. The first question I'll gamble they'd ask, without any shadow of doubt, is 'How much?'"

Make no mistake, that's happened to me. As I say, I don't object. But don't let anyone blind your eyes to the fact that it goes on, however much the illy-whites would like to kid you otherwise.

That's why I commend to you today the attitude of Bury footballer, England amateur Johnny Walton. He's signing pro, so that the professional club he has served so well can collect a nice fat fee simply by transferring him.

Johnny, my boy—I'd like to pat that fair, curly head of yours. There's no hypocrisy with you. Fresh air is pretty plentiful in these islands at the moment, but for all that your attitude brings us another nice, refreshing breath of it.

"A STITCH IN TIME"

London, Feb. 9.

The decision to call in Football League club managers for advice on how to improve English soccer generally, and international teams in particular, has been warmly received here.

The football-going public, sports writers and the managers themselves have in general praised the move, which many regard as the "stitch in time" to prevent the flag of English football prestige becoming littered beyond repair.

At the invitation of the Football Association's senior and intermediate international committees, the managers will confer in London on March 22.

Naturally, they will have no delegated powers, but it is anticipated that from their exchange of opinions on matters of mutual, day-to-day concern, ideas will emerge to signpost an effective and practical policy.

Some observers are already scolding a note of caution, saying they point out that if all the 92 League clubs are represented, the conference is going to be somewhat top-heavy. If too many are bent on urging pet schemes with little heed to their common application, not much good will be served.

WHEAT FROM CHAFF

It is to be hoped that from now until March managers will grasp every opportunity of exchanging views and sorting wheat from chaff, so that only the essentials remain for the conference agenda.

Such has been the concern over recent international displays that the views of many top-flight managers are already widely known.

Thus, a clash on a basic issue is to be foreseen. For while some blame England's poor results on lack of pre-match preparation and training, others, including Mr. Stanley Cullis, Wolverhampton Wanderers manager and former England centre-half, argue that players have appeared together long enough to be versed in each other's styles. They also ask: "Is long preparation practicable under such an over-laden League system?"

As an offshoot of this argument, redistribution of the League may well be suggested. A number of managers, among them Mr. Matt Busby, Manchester United manager and former Scottish international, believe a less hectic programme would make clubs more football-minded and less points-conscious.

Small clubs, acutely aware of the downward trend in gates since the immediate post-war years, see in it a further reduction in revenue.

Such are the problems of English soccer. The managers, the men most closely concerned, see a way through and their advice is set upon the picture may quickly brighten. —China Mail Special.

Port Elizabeth, Feb. 9.

South Africa defeated New Zealand by five wickets in the fifth cricket Test here today, and won the series by four matches to nil, with one drawn.

New Zealand, all out for 222 in their second innings, left South Africa to get 212 runs in 225 minutes for victory. They scored 215 for five. South Africa's win was their biggest in a Test series against any country. The previous best margin was by four matches to one against England, in South Africa in 1906-06.

A brilliant fourth wicket partnership of 107 in 70 minutes by Endean and John Watkins enabled South Africa to hit off the runs in three hours and five minutes.

The issue was still in doubt when they came together. Endean attacked throughout and hit 14 fours in a stay of 94 minutes. Watkins also hit powerfully for 45, including four fours, in 79 minutes.

THE SCORES

New Zealand, 1st innings, 226
New Zealand, 2nd innings, 14
F. Mooney, c. Van Ryneveld, 9
M. Chapple, lbw, b. Murray, 8
M. Poore, c. Waite, b. Van Ryneveld, 18
b. Sulcliffe, c. & b. Van Ryneveld, 52
J. Reid, run out, 73
H. Beck, b. Tayfield, 12
E. Dempster, stumped Waite, b. Van Ryneveld, 1
A. MacGibbon, c. Adecock, 14
L. Miller, c. Waite, b. Adecock, 2
L. Blair, stumped Waite, b. Van Ryneveld, 8
W. Bell, not out, 21
Extras, 4

Total, 222
Full of wickets: 1/13, 2/17, 3/73, 4/122, 5/161, 6/166, 7/181, 8/189, 9/193.

Bowling:

Adecock, 19, 1, 45, 2
Watkins, 14, 6, 21, 1
Murray, 17, 7, 34, 1
Tayfield, 17, 5, 61, 1
Van Ryneveld, 20, 1, 67, 4
South Africa, 1st innings, 237
J. MacGraw, run out, 38
R. Westcott, b. MacGibbon, 11
K. Funston, c. Mooney, b. MacGibbon, 0
W. Endean, c. & b. Bell, 87
J. Watkins, b. Reid, 45
C. Van Ryneveld, not out, 13
J. Cheetham, not out, 11
Extras, 11

Total (for five wickets) 215
Bowling:

Blair, 7, 0, 15, 0
MacGibbon, 10, 0, 44, 2
Reid, 15, 2, 61, 1
Dempster, 9, 0, 27, 0
Bell, 9, 3, 54, 1
Mooney, 1, 1, 0, 0
Fall of wickets: 1/44, 2/40, 3/81, 4/188, 5/198.—Reuter.

THE RESULTS

The full results of yesterday's matches were:

Y. Khan lost to K. C. Dao 1-0, 1-0; Edwin Tsai beat L. T. Lee 1-1, 6-3; L. J. Wade lost to L. T. Lee 3-0, 3-6; E. J. B. White beat P. L. Chan 6-1, 0-2; W. M. Leung lost to P. H. Ju 1-0, 0-6; C. C. Tsou beat M. W. H. Calvert 6-0, 6-1; A. V. Szeto beat G. L. Lam 6-2, 6-3; and D. Todd-Jones lost to R. E. Moore 6-2, 2-0.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Court 1: Sof Faller v T. Lo, Court 2: K. F. Lee v K. L. Ho, Court 3: J. S. Woodhouse v Choy Tin-kin, Court 4: S. Saul v J. C. Savage, Court 5: Sanballe v M. C. Ng, Court 6: C. S. Cheng v W. Wong, Court 7: C. Kao v K. C. Lung, Court 8: F. Lando v F. Ma.

Thursday

Court 1: w/o C. F. Harrison & Fritz Lin v w/o E. Pereira & K. L. Lee, Court 2: w/o C. F. Harrison & Fritz Lin v w/o E. Pereira & K. L. Lee, Court 3: w/o C. F. Harrison & Fritz Lin v w/o E. Pereira & K. L. Lee, Court 4: w/o C. F. Harrison & Fritz Lin v w/o E. Pereira & K. L. Lee, Court 5: w/o C. F. Harrison & Fritz Lin v w/o E. Pereira & K. L. Lee, Court 6: w/o C. F. Harrison & Fritz Lin v w/o E. Pereira & K. L. Lee, Court 7: w/o C. F. Harrison & Fritz Lin v w/o E. Pereira & K. L. Lee, Court 8: w/o C. F. Harrison & Fritz Lin v w/o E. Pereira & K. L. Lee.

Wicketkeeper's World Record For Test Series

Port Elizabeth, Feb. 9.

John Waite, South African wicketkeeper, set a world record with 23 dismissals in the Test series against New Zealand which ended here today.

Waite took 16 catches and made seven stumpings in the five Test matches. The previous best was 21 dismissals in a rubber held jointly by Gil Langley (Australia) and England's H. Strudwick—China Mail Special.

TOMMY ATKINS' Army Sports Parade

It took me some time to decide who should have the honour this week of topping the Tommy Atkins' Sports Parade. Finally it rested between two teams and an individual, and when all points were considered I decided to give pride of place to "Taff" Stevens, the Army soccer star. Last Thursday Stevens came down from Fanling with the intention of sitting comfortably in the stand at the Club Stadium and watching the Hongkong Selection in action against Kooze Bokklub.

Longland, Stevens' colleague in the Army team, was declared unfit by the Army doctor and the Hongkong FA officials were faced with the task of filling his place in the side. After considering several possible changes in the line-up the officials took a bold step and decided to invite Stevens, who had not been in the original nominations, to play.

When approached by the Army officials Stevens sportingly agreed to turn out, and to make a pleasant story complete he flashed up his outstanding player official. All sections of the local press were loud in their praise of his play, but his success brought special satisfaction to his Army colleagues who have long appreciated his worth as a half back.

Stevens sails from the Colony on 21st of the month and his departure will leave a big hole in local soccer affairs.

One of the best games of Rugby seen here in a long time took place at Boundary Street last Saturday, and not only did the powerful Welsh Regiment XV win the Inter-Unit Rugby Championship, but they also won the right to represent Hongkong against the Champions of Malaya at Singapore in a few weeks' time.

The game provided the spectators with plenty of exciting play and 72 LAA Regt. RA are to be congratulated on their great fight and in keeping the final result in doubt right to the last moment of the game.

The "Old Comrades Challenge Cup" joins other famous trophies on the Dorsets' sideboard as the result of their fine win over the Club soccer eleven at the Stadium on Saturday. This was really a grand performance for the club, fielded their full 1st Division side and Sgt. Scott and his green shirted teammates are to be congratulated on taking the cup back to San Wal with them.

The Dorsets were most appreciative of the hospitality which was extended to them after the match and I trust that they are hoping to arrange a return game before the end of the season.

INTERESTING STAGE

The Land Forces Golfing Championship has now reached a most interesting stage and only one game remains to be played before the last of the quarter-finals is known.

The competition is now so intense that the popular pastime of spotting the eventual winner is a most difficult one indeed. When I asked for an "inside" tip I was told that while "anything" could happen quite a number of folks felt that the golfer who beats Colonel Furnival may well prove to be the Champion.

The Army cricket teams now look to be well on their way to winning both the 1st and 2nd Divisions of the local League. The teams have been playing extremely well throughout the season and have managed to win when the wickets have been soft or hard. The 'A' side has been particularly well served by its bowlers while the batting section of the 'B' team has put up some really excellent scores this season.

The RAMC soccer team did well to win their 2nd Division game against REME at Happy Valley at the week-end. They had two early casualties due to injury and played most of the game with nine men. Only a tenacious defence enabled them to hang on to their 2-1 lead until the final whistle.

CURIOSITY AROUSED

The "Red Duster" Boxing Tournament at China Fleet Club last week has resulted in several interesting questions being asked about the Welsh Regt. boxers who have been invited to take part in the tournament.

Some of the fighters did so well that many folks are wondering why so little has been heard about the Welshmen in some of the Land Forces Championships.

Particularly impressive was the magnificent display given by Pte. Chivers when he was pitted against the captain of the HMB Birmingham boxing team, Ldg. Ssg. Townsend.

Townsend is a widely experienced fighter and has fought many top class men, but of late he has been active in the ring he will seldom have a harder fight than was given him by the blonds Chivers.

The crowd's appreciation of this fight surpassed anything we have heard here for a long time, and it was hoped that the boxing community was probably got some idea of the tremendous excitement that was raised during the extremely thrilling last round. We must see more of this man Chivers.

KEN SMITH Show Talking MAUREEN O'HARA SAYS IT'S TOUGH BEING BEAUTIFUL

London. Maureen O'Hara, star who thinks it a drawback to be beautiful, leaned back in bed in her hotel suite, rolled up above her elbows the sleeves of a pair of men's blue pyjamas, and said: "Hope you don't mind interviewing me this way, Ken, but I've got a cold and I'm taking a day off."

I said truthfully, I didn't mind in the least, and tried not to notice how beautiful she looked, even without make-up—and with a cold.

Her red hair framed a pale face and lips to which only the barest touch of lipstick had been added.

I asked "the Queen of Technicolor," who is in England to film Malaga with Macdonald Carey, why she thinks it a drawback to be beautiful. "Producers look at a pretty face and think: 'She must have got this far on her looks—then along comes a girl with a plain face and they think she must be a great actress,' she isn't pretty," she gave her the gleam of a grin, and the pretty girl gets left behind.

Critics have frequently pointed out that her many appearances as the heroine of elaborate Technicolor spectacles in which she has been praised as "deceptive" and "ornamental" have limited her acting opportunities.

HARD TO CURE BY

Sala Maureen, "I agree. I would like good dramatic roles, but they seem hard to come by these days, except for the Bette Davises and the Joan Crawford; and, after all, a girl must live."

Born Maureen Fitzsimmons at Milltown, near Dublin on August 17, 1921, she is one of a family of three sisters and two brothers.

All, except the eldest, have appeared on films or stage. The eldest girl is in a convent, and she could have become a concert singer if she had not preferred to take the veil.

In early life Maureen started to emulate her mother, a member of the Abbey Players, and a singer of some note, by starting in the backyard of her home, in plays she made up for the children of the neighbourhood.

She earned her first money as a professional on the radio at 12, and by the time she was 14 had received many awards in dramatic contests, as well as being enrolled in the Abbey Theatre school.

By the time she was 17 she had "graduated from spear carrying to small roles" in the famous Abbey Theatre.

A year later she was given the unusual offer of a leading role with the company, but at the same time received from an English film company a letter inviting her to London for a screen test.

It might have stopped her film career short, for the picture was never completed, but fortunately Charles Laughton and Erich Pommer saw a bright cut from her scene and chose her for the female lead in *Jamaica Inn*, which led to the leading female role in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, again opposite Laughton.

THEY PRAISED HER

She won praise for her performance in John Ford's Academy award winner *How Green Was My Valley*, and then in turn portrayed Buffalo Bill's wife, a Spanish noblewoman, a staid college dean, an Eastern princess, and a swordswoman. In all she has appeared in more than 20 films.

The hazel-eyed Maureen, who stands 5ft. 7½in. and weighs 9 stone, has been twice married, both marriages ending in divorce.

In 1948 she became an American citizen.

VETERAN OF 21

"Hello, there!" said the voice on the telephone. "Remember me, Peggy Ann Garner? Why not come over for a drink?"

I went over, wondering what sort of a woman Peggy Ann Garner had turned to be. I remembered her violent, exciting rise to stardom as the challenger and final victor over doll-like Shirley Temple.

At 6 she went to Hollywood. At 7 she made her first film, *Little Miss Thoroughbred*. At 12 she was a star with her name in lights in *Jane Eyre*.

Carruthers Back In Training

Sydney, Feb. 10.

The World Bantamweight Champion, Jimmy Carruthers, will leave for Japan on February 23, his trainer, Bill McConnell, said last night.

McConnell, who will accompany Carruthers, said he wanted him to have one month's training in the Japanese climate before the first fight in Tokyo on March 20.

Carruthers would have a non-title fight in Osaka on April 19, before the world title fight against the "Ole" Champion, Chamen Soudkirt, in Bangkok on April 23, McConnell said.

Carruthers, who is now in the "latter stages" of his training, will fly to Japan today.—Reuter.



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SHEAFFER'S
ADMIRAL
NEW
"SHORKEL"
PEN

JOHN CLARKE'S
CASEBOOK

Jeremy's
New Start

TWICE, in the late evening, the policeman had moved Jeremy on, finding him each time, propping up West End doorway, half asleep.

In the early hours of the morning, the policeman came up: Jeremy once again. This time, he was curled up in a doorway, really asleep.

"Come on now," said the policeman, shaking the sleeping man by the shoulder of his patched and frayed sport-jacket. "You can't sleep here, you'll have to go to—"

And he named a hostel a long walk away.

"I'm going to no lodging house," Jeremy said. "You'd better arrest me. I'll give me a chance to get things straightened out."

THE ARREST

THE policeman did arrest him, and at Bow Street next morning, Jeremy, a dark-haired, balding, mournful man, pleaded guilty to wandering abroad and lodging in the open air.

"He said when I arrested him, that he hadn't eaten for 36 hours," said the policeman to Sir Laurence Dunne, the Chief Magistrate.

"Is he known?" Sir Laurence inquired of the gaoler.

"Known for crime, not for this type of offence," the gaoler answered.

"What's happened?" Sir Laurence asked Jeremy, in a friendly voice.

"I came out of prison six days ago," Jeremy said. "I meant to go straight, get work, right away. I went to a hotel place in Aldgate, and put all my cards on the table to them, telling them I'd just come out, and asked if they could help me get a job."

A LONG WALK

THEY said they'd try, but after he hanging around a couple days, they told me there weren't no vacancies anywhere. By then, all my money was gone. And I wanted to go straight, see? I added with fervour.

"How much money did they give you when you came out of prison?"

"Seven-and-six," Jeremy said. "I signed on at the Labour Exchange, but there wasn't no jobs for me there. Then, day before yesterday, I heard there was the chance of a night's work in Hammersmith. So I walked there from Aldgate, and hung around all night. Thought I might get fixed with a bit of money to sort of set myself up, see? I waited till seven in the morning, but there wasn't no job, so I walked back."

"What was the sentence you had been serving?" Sir Laurence asked.

"FIFTEEN months," Jeremy said and drew a deep sigh.

Sir Laurence called forward Mr Badger, the probation officer, who said he had known Jeremy eight years before after a charge of begging.

"Well, he seems pretty sorry for himself now, will you see what you can do for him?" Sir Laurence asked the probation officer.

Mr Badger nodded. Sir Laurence turned to Jeremy. "You're finding, aren't you, as people often do, that the real punishment starts when you finish a prison sentence?" he suggested. Jeremy glumly agreed.

"Well, don't sleep rough," Sir Laurence counselled him. "Go and have a talk now with Mr Badger. He'll help you to find work and somewhere to stay. I shall discharge you conditionally."

HOPE AGAIN

FOR a moment, Jeremy tried to speak, but he could not. He had to let his eyes perform the office of his voice. They, and his whole expression, told his gratitude with eloquence enough.

He inhaled out towards the future, a man-whom those few minutes in the dock had quite transformed, a man in whom hope sparked again.

'What's Her Line?' Solution
BARRECK RIDER
London Express Service

Alleged
False
Pretences

8 Lakhs Involved

Sums totalling \$817,502.74 were involved in five charges of obtaining money by false pretences and one of conspiracy to defraud that were preferred against Chan Tak-shing, alias Chan Wing-kai, 36, unemployed, a native of Formosa, when his trial opened before Judge J. Reynolds in the Victoria District Court this morning.

The alleged fraud concerned the shipment of 5,000 cases that were supposed to contain 401,400 lbs of first grade Formosan green tea ("Chun Mee") despatched by various ships to Casablanca, North Africa. It was alleged by the Prosecution that these cases in fact contained 192,000 lbs of inferior grade tea.

Accused, who pleaded not guilty to all counts, was represented by Mr Patrick Yu, instructed by Hastings and Co. The Prosecution was conducted by Mr Simon F.S. Li, Crown Counsel, assisted by Det. Sub-Insp. Clough and H.C. Hul, of the Commercial Crimes Office.

THE FIVE CHARGES

The five charges of obtaining money by false pretences were (1) that, on August 21, 1952, with intent to defraud, obtained \$125,544.38 from the New China Associated Tea Corporation from the Bank of Indo-China by falsely pretending that 630 cases consigned by the Corporation to Casablanca per the s.s. Radnorshire contained 50,400 lbs of "Chun Mee" green tea, whereas in fact the cases contained approximately 25,000 lbs of inferior grade tea; (2) that, on or about August 10, 1952, obtained \$220,683.08 from the Bank of Indo-China by falsely pretending that 1,403 cases consigned for Casablanca per the s.s. Shillong contained 108,600 lbs of "Chun Mee" tea, whereas they in fact contained approximately 54,000 lbs of inferior grade tea; (3) that, on or about August 29, 1952, obtained \$48,622.86 from the Bank of Indo-China by pretending that 325 cases consigned for Casablanca per the s.s. Mekong contained 26,000 lbs of "Chun Mee" green tea, whereas they in fact contained approximately 12,000 lbs of inferior grade tea; (4) that, on or about August 25, 1952, obtained \$230,573.32 from the Bank of Indo-China by pretending that 1,455 cases consigned to Casablanca per the s.s. Glenysle contained 110,400 lbs of "Chun Mee" green tea, whereas they in fact contained approximately 100,000 lbs of inferior grade tea; (5) that, on August 28, 1952, obtained \$107,395.10 from the Bank of Indo-China by pretending that 1,290 cases consigned to Casablanca per the s.s. Halland contained 100,000 lbs of "Chun Mee" green tea, whereas they in fact contained approximately 40,000 lbs of inferior grade tea.

The charge of conspiracy to cheat and defraud alleged that the accused, on divers dates between June 25 and September 11, 1952, together with Lam Ming-shun, alias Lam Ching-sau, alias Kwong-tau Lam and other persons not in custody, conspired together to defraud such persons as could be induced to part with money by false representations, that they were able to supply first grade Formosan green tea to such persons.

81 WITNESSES

In his opening, Mr Li said that the list of witnesses was a rather formidable one as the Crown intended calling 81 persons to testify against the accused. The principal witness, Mr Elias Saka, was not at present in the Colony being in Casablanca, but he was expected to arrive at any time.

It was alleged by the Prosecution, Mr Li continued, that the accused was associated with certain persons, one of whom was Lam Ming-shun (named in the sixth charge), who were concerned in the management of a firm which changed its name from time to time—certainly once at least—and was finally changed to the name of the New China Associated Tea Corporation, situated at Room 409, China Emporium building, 101 real centre of their activities in the scheme was at Johnston's Godown in Des Voeux Road West.

On or about May, 1952, the New China Associated Tea Corporation despatched a consignment of tea to Casablanca, and accused himself signed as guarantor in the contract for the letting of Johnston's Godown.

The police, acting on instructions, executed a search warrant at the home of the accused on July 2 last, and found two documents in Chinese in a suitcase in the accused's bed-room. These two documents were identified by the son of a woman, with whom the accused was living, as a document written by him under the accused's dictation, and one, in the accused's own handwriting, as a document written by him under the accused's dictation.

The accused was taken to the Commercial Crimes Office the same day and made a long statement, under caution, to Insp. Clough.

The hearing is continuing.

A LINK WITH PAST HISTORY



Russia Buys
SA Beef

Capetown, Feb. 10. South Africa is to sell about 7,000 frozen beef carcasses to Russia. It was disclosed by business circles yesterday.

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr S. P. le Roux replying to a question, said a contract had just been concluded by a private firm for the delivery of frozen meat carried over from last year in Walvis Bay, Southwest Africa, cold stores.

As there was now a surplus, the minister authorized the Meat Board to export old stocks to make room for fresh supplies.—France-Press.

DYING MAN
ACCUSES
HIS WIFE

San Francisco, Feb. 9. A wealthy importer dying of cancer told a Superior Court Judge from his hospital bed today that he wanted a divorce from his wife before he died because she taunted him about her "multiple love affairs".

Albert N. Ades became violently ill several times while giving the deposition to Judge D. L. Harris as his wife Gertrude stood by his bed with her lawyers.

Physicians at the hospital said Ades was "going downhill" and no one could tell how long he would last.

The couple married in May 1949 and two years later Mrs Ades filed for separate maintenance, asking for all community property, which she valued at \$500,000.

Ades said that on their wedding day his wife made him sign a trust fund for \$25,000 making her the beneficiary. Later, he said, he sent her to Honolulu because she said she was not feeling well, but she spent every day on the cruise making love to the ship's steward.

His wife first answered "so what" when he accused her of accepting \$50 from another man. Later, he said, "she got a gun and said she wanted to kill me. I wrestled the gun away and then she ran and got a knife and said, 'You will kill me and cut me to pieces, so you'll never be good'."

He said he ran.—United Press.

Train Arrives

London, Feb. 10. The first through passenger train from Moscow arrived in Peking yesterday on schedule, the New China News Agency reported today.

A crowd of 1,000 cheered as the train pulled into Chienmen railway station at 200 hours, local.

The Communist agency said leading officials of the Ministry of Railways were among those present to greet the train's Soviet crew.

Among the 140 passengers, it noted, were Soviet experts who had come to help in China's reconstruction, Rumanian technicians, Chinese students who had studied abroad and 50 Korean students on their way home.—Reuter.

Radio Hongkong

H.K.T. Signal and Programme Summary: 6.05, Lucky Dip: Variety Requests presented by Margherita (Studio); 6.55, Weather Report; 7, Time Signal and World News (Radio Relay); 7.10, The Book of the Week: Five A Week; 7.15, News; 7.20, News; 7.25, News; 7.30, News; 7.35, News; 7.40, News; 7.45, News; 7.50, News; 7.55, News; 8.00, News; 8.05, News; 8.10, News; 8.15, News; 8.20, News; 8.25, News; 8.30, News; 8.35, News; 8.40, News; 8.45, News; 8.50, News; 8.55, News; 9.00, News; 9.05, News; 9.10, News; 9.15, News; 9.20, News; 9.25, News; 9.30, News; 9.35, News; 9.40, News; 9.45, News; 9.50, News; 9.55, News; 10.00, News; 10.05, News; 10.10, News; 10.15, News; 10.20, News; 10.25, News; 10.30, News; 10.35, News; 10.40, News; 10.45, News; 10.50, News; 10.55, News; 11.00, News; 11.05, News; 11.10, News; 11.15, News; 11.20, News; 11.25, News; 11.30, News; 11.35, News; 11.40, News; 11.45, News; 11.50, News; 11.55, News; 12.00, News; 12.05, News; 12.10, News; 12.15, News; 12.20, News; 12.25, News; 12.30, News; 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